

Request for Council Action

Originator Planning	Item Forward 2040 Forecasts and Progress Update
Agenda Section Study	Date 10/10/2016
Description	

GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant: City of Bloomington

Request: Study Item – Progress update on Forward 2040 comprehensive plan and forecasts

BACKGROUND

This spring, staff began to update the City's Comprehensive Plan - "Forward 2040." As required by State Statutes, local comprehensive plans must be updated every ten years to ensure consistency with the Metropolitan Council's regional *system plans*, which are also updated every ten years following each decennial census.

The update process occurs over a three-year period. The City's updated plan must be submitted to the Metropolitan Council by December 31, 2018. In 2016, work focused on soliciting input from across the community regarding what people value most about Bloomington and what challenges and opportunities the plan should address. Our outreach efforts to engage the community to date have included:

- **Three town hall meetings** – these were facilitated discussions around the topics of sustainability; diversity and engagement; and community assets. Over 140 people attended these meetings. A summary of input received at the meetings is included in Attachment A.
- **Project webpage** created to serve as an information repository for the Forward 2040 project and to provide engagement opportunities. A series of rotating questions were posted to get input on what people value about Bloomington. Responses to the questions were transformed into graphic "wordles," which are included in Attachment B.
- **Social media** was used to inform residents of meetings, the online survey, the rotating questions, and how to apply to be a member of the advisory committee. Planning will continue to use social media to promote meetings and events and to receive community feedback.
- **Online survey** posted to gather input on what people feel should be the City's highest priorities over the next 20-years. Two hundred and eighty-seven people completed the survey. A summary of the survey responses is included in Attachment C.
- **Information displays and input opportunities** at various community events, including Bloomington Farmers Market, Music in the Parks, Summer Fete, activities at Creekside Community Center, Chamber of Commerce Business Day at City Hall, Heritage Days, a pop-up farmer's market in the South Loop District, and a meeting held in Spanish at Assumption Church in Richfield (11 of the 12 participants were

Bloomington residents). A summary of input received at the Latino town hall meeting is included in Attachment D.

- **Advisory Committee** appointed to assist staff in drafting the policies and priorities for the comprehensive plan update. Half of the committee representatives are Bloomington residents and/or business owners and half represent existing City commissions and boards. The City Council recently appointed eight individuals to serve as the resident/business representatives. The committee will meet monthly for the next 12 to 14 months; the first meeting is scheduled for November 2.

Another area of focus in 2016 has been on compiling baseline existing conditions and trend information about the comprehensive plan elements (e.g., land use, utilities, transportation, parks, housing). An update on this information will be provided at a study session later this fall.

2040 Population, Households and Employment Forecasts

As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, the City is required to provide population, households and employment forecasts at the city level and transportation analysis zone (TAZ) level. These forecasts are used by the Metropolitan Council to prepare regional traffic forecasts. The forecasts are integrated into various elements of Comprehensive Plan and are used by staff to determine future demand and needs related to infrastructure (e.g., utility pipe sizing, road sizing, transit ridership), housing, and community facilities.

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan, the City's demographic forecasts are used in special area studies, environmental review documents, and grant applications.

Staff recently finalized the draft forecasts. The full TAZ level dataset is included in Attachment E.

Summary

	2016	2020	2030	2040
Households	37,634	38,585	40,873	42,511
Population	87,245	88,939	92,940	95,862
Employment	91,866	96,388	108,057	115,110

Planning will be available for questions and comments on the information in this study item.

Item created by: Julie Farnham, Senior Planner and Jason Schmidt, Planner
Presenter: Same

Requested Action

Information only. Staff is looking for comments and questions regarding the information transmitted.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Town Hall Summaries
Attachment B - Draft Wordles
Attachment C - Draft Survey Results
Attachment D – Draft Latino Town Hall Summary
Attachment E - Draft 2040 Forecasts by TAZ
Adopted PC Minutes 08/25/16